

July 22, 2010

File: 335.8

TO: AREA MANAGERS, UNIT MANAGERS, & ALL MEMBERS OF THE DNRC FIRE & AVIATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

FROM: TED MEAD, Chief, Fire and Aviation Management Bureau

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION TO THE USDA, FOREST SERVICE COOPERATOR AIRCRAFT/PILOT APPROVAL LETTER (06/24/10)

It has been agreed that transportation of Forest Service firefighters is allowed in Montana DNRC aircraft for the first 36 hours of any incident and that DNRC will provide NWCG module staffing. If action goes beyond 36 hours, transport of Forest Service firefighters is not authorized regardless of protection responsibility. After 36 hours, authorization (*using the Cooperator Aircraft Utilization Request Form) may be granted by the Regional Aviation Officer on a case by case basis if an NWCG qualified module staffed to IHOG standards is in place and if Forest Service personnel are critical to the incident operations. Authorization is not required in an emergency situation that threatens human life (i.e. Medi-vac, Firefighter evacuation).

*Cooperator Aircraft Utilization request can initially be made and approved verbally with written follow-up.

If you have any questions, please contact John Monzie or me.

Attachments

EQC
JULY 22, 2010
EXHIBIT 9

Cooperator Aircraft Utilization Request

(Forest Service firefighters flying on Cooperator Aircraft)

Date of Request: _____

Forest: _____

Incident Name: _____

Requesting Official: _____

Title: _____

Helicopter Manager Name: _____

Helicopter Make and Model :



NWCG qualified manager and IHOG module to manage aircraft
in place ?

☐
yes

☐
no

Other aircraft on incident (N number and type)

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____

Disapproved: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____

Rescinded: _____ Date: _____



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Region One

200 East Broadway
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

File Code: 5700/5300

Date: June 24, 2010

Route To:

Subject: Approval of Airplane Pilots - State of Montana DNRC

To: Forest and Grasslands Supervisors

Regional Aviation Officer has authorized in accordance with FSM 5712.34, 5713.43 and the 2010 National Association of State Foresters Cooperator Aviation Standards for Interagency Fire, the following Montana DNRC pilots and aircraft for Forest Service use as cooperator aircraft.

All activity occurring will comply with Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (e.g. staffing), FSM 5700, FSH 5709.16 and the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Desk Guide and Montana DNRC 1500 Manual, Air Operations.

Rotor wing aircraft: Bell 206 BIII: N384M, N392M

Bell UH-1: N387M, N388M, N394M, N395M, N398M

Fixed wing aircraft: Cessna 180 series: N391M, N9067M and N6312B.

Pilot approvals: Rotor Wing Pilot-in-Command flight time requirements for these missions are 1500 hours. Fixed Wing flight time requirements are 1,200 hours Pilot-in-Command, with a minimum of 1,500 hours total time. *See Attached*

Montana DNRC Personnel, Forest Aviation Officers and the appropriate dispatch center will ensure all flights are required, properly coordinated, and all appropriate documentation is completed in full compliance with Public Law 103-411, Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide Appendix Q and S.

Under Forest Service direct fire protection, state aircraft are allowed to provide fire support for initial attack if commercial aircraft are not available. An order shall be placed for replacement aircraft.

Pilots and aircraft listed are approved for incident support including, internal/external cargo, water/retardant bucket and USFS initial attack firefighter transport.

As a reminder, the following procedures will be adhered to for use on State and Forest Service direct protection when transporting FS firefighters:



1. Both parties will conduct a pre-and post-mission briefing. Objective of the flight, mission planning, aviation safety and risk assessment must be included.
2. Applicable demonstrated weight and balance and performance planning procedures must be complied with.
3. Personnel will brief Forest Service personnel on the location and operation of safety equipment, crash and emergency egress procedures.
4. All firefighter-carrying flights must be conducted at or above 500ft. AGL. If an occasion arises that requires a descent below 500 ft. AGL, a thorough high and low level recon must be conducted. Prudent low-level flying techniques must be maintained at all times.
5. Flight Following is essential. All activity with comply with Chapter 20, flight following resource tracking in Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide.
6. A copy of this letter will be kept onboard all Montana DNRC aircraft.

If action goes beyond initial attack i.e., *large fire support*; transport of Forest Service personnel is not authorized regardless of protection responsibility. Authorization may be granted by the Regional Aviation Officer on a case by case basis if the transport of Forest Service personnel is critical to an incident and commercial aircraft are not available.

THIS AUTHORIZATION WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL: June 30th, 2011

Should you have any questions, please contact Maggie Doherty at 406-329-4903.

/s/ Margaret M. Doherty
MARGARET M. DOHERTY
Regional Aviation Officer

/s/ Jane L. Cottrell
JANE L. COTTRELL
Deputy Regional Forester

cc: Patricia Koppenol
Cathy E Scofield
Forest Aviation Officers
Chuck Brenton - Montana DNRC
Bob Harrington - Montana State Forester